HOPE

HEALTH OPULENCE PEACE ENLIGHTENMENT

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UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

O gentle night, whose cloistered stars do shine
Upon the world where wearied souls do dream,
Return again our memories divine
To when from thy bright mantle shone the beam
Of Bethlehem's Star that did announce the birth,
To gentle shepherds sitting on the hill,
Of David's Son, the Saviour of the Earth,
Sent forth from God to do His Holy Will.

O Virgin pure, what cherished thoughts were those
That poured, in Holy Love, upon Thy Child!
Could we but now relive the Way He chose,
In trusting all to Thee — the Mother mild,
'Twould be a better world in which to live,
For then all men would truly brothers be,
And, following the Master's steps, would give
Devotion to our God eternally.

O Holy Child, O blessed Prince of Peace,
Whose shining Star the Wise Men did obey,
May Love within the hearts of men increase
That they, in Wisdom, seek Thy Light today.
For unto us a Child is born again;
'Tis Christ, the Son of God, in every heart;
And truly shall God's Light shine through all men
As Bethlehem's Star did guidance then impart.

Also in this issue: The Beloved Elohim, Arcturus, and His Divine Complement, Diana; Immortality through the Power of Invocation; Reflection and Aspiration; Lay up for yourselves treasures; Peace through Contemplation; All things shall become new; A Christmas Story.

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THE ELOHIM OF CONSECRATED PRAYER — BELOVED ARCTURUS AND HIS DIVINE COMPLEMENT, DIANA

There are many people living on this sweet planet Earth, as well as disembodied souls who may have not yet attained the Realms of Light, who either do not know how to make efficacious prayers, will not make them, or are (for some temporary reason) unable to so pray.

The Beloved Elohim, Arcturus, and His Divine Complement, Diana, serving together on the Seventh Ray (violet in color), are willing to help all such people here on this Earth today who are interested in making efficacious prayers for those individuals who are unable to make the self-conscious endeavor to ask for God-assistance for themselves and their loved ones.

Prayer is power that, if consciously directed, does reach Heavenward, and, in return, brings from the Heavenly Father and His Messengers blessings, protection, healing, faith, and every manner of assistance required to make His children happy and God-free in themselves. Prayer which issues out from the heart of man is amplified by the Beloved Arcturus and Diana and raised to the Throne of the Heavenly Father. Arcturus and Diana also stimulate in the hearts of those who cannot, will not, or do not want to pray, *a desire* for prayer which opens the doors of the Father's Kingdom to each such an one.

From time immemorial, Divine Messengers have helped the Heavenly Father to both stimulate prayer in the hearts of men and to amplify those prayers—literally carrying such supplications into the Heart of Heaven toward which all aspire.

Arcturus, as the Elohim of prayer and invocation, was one of the Seven Great Beings Who helped in the creation of this Earth for the peoples who have used it as a schoolroom for aeons of time. It is, therefore, His desire to help stimulate in the human race today the desire to pray efficaciously. He, as well as the Beloved Diana, are robed in garments of deep Royal Purple, and Their Angels also wear robes of varying shades of purple and violet. These Angels are constantly in the atmosphere of Earth enfolding the grief-ridden people at the time of so-called death. Also at this time, They carry in Their arms the souls as they depart from the Earth for sojourn in the inner realms. They are beautiful beyond all conception, and Their services invoked for yourself and your loved ones (on Earth or after so-called death) will help greatly in the raising of the vibratory action of all souls caught in lethargy or distress of any kind.

From Their Light Bodies, beautiful Violet Rays shine forth to give a spiritual ablution to all life in distress. It is a 'baptism of the soul' which takes away much of the accumulated karma (destructive appearances) and replaces that karma with buoyancy and light.

All mankind, unascended, require this spiritual baptism of the Violet Flame of Mercy and Love. If you will ask Arcturus and Diana and Their Angels of Light to consciously direct those Rays to you and all you hold near and dear, They will answer you instantly.

The cosmic service of Arcturus and Diana deals with the teaching of the more advanced members of the human race in the powers of invocation of Light. That Light is a Presence; an Intelligence; and a Reality. Within your own dear hearts is a focus of that Light. It can become a magnet to draw all the powers, gifts, blessings and radiation from any God-free Being into your world, your city, your nation, or the very Earth itself. The focus of Light in the heart has been called by many names. The Ascended Master Jesus referred to It as the 'Kingdom of Heaven within you'. The Lord Buddha referred to It as 'the Jewel in the Heart of the Lotus'. Other great Teachers have, in like manner, given cognizance to that Presence within you which, when allowed to act through you, can make of you a Sun of Righteousness right here while you walk the ways of Earth. Now is the time for this expansion of the Light within each blessed one on Earth. Arcturus and Diana are real Beings, and They will help you to become such a Sun for the benefaction of the race so that your Light can and will actually illumine the Earth and transmute, by that Light, all temporary shadows. Then will the Kingdom of Heaven be again manifest here on Earth. Angels, mankind and free elemental life will walk, talk, and serve together and there SHALL BE NO NIGHT THERE.

Because you have not heard the names of the Elohim, nor learned of Their service, does not make Them cease to be. They (like the physical Sun which always shines even though clouds temporarily shut away its light from the people of Earth) continue Their loving service, but this service can be amplified if *you* call to Them directly. In the so comforting 23rd Psalm, David wrote: "He leadeth me beside the *still waters.*" These still waters are actually beautiful purifying currents of the Violet Flame of Mercy and Compassion in which the people on Earth, as well as those living in the hereafter, can have the most efficacious purification. These currents of the Violet Flame are established, maintained, and expanded by Beloved Arcturus, Diana, and Their Angels of Light.

Beloved Presence of God, I thank You for Mercy, Forgiveness, and opportunity to redeem my own and my fellowman's errors of omission and commission.

I do earnestly invite the assistance of the Beloved Elohim Arcturus and Beloved Diana to direct those Violet Fire currents Earthward to me, my loved ones, and all in distress.

Beloved Heavenly Father, help me to accept the reality of these Beings and the purifying essence that They send forth for the blessing and benefaction of all life.

In Your Wisdom I abide, In the Presence of the Elohim Arcturus and Diana and Their Angels I am safely enfolded through Your Mercy. I know that You, Beloved Father, have only good in store for me and all imprisoned life. I expect that good now — today! AMEN

IMMORTALITY THROUGH THE POWER OF INVOCATION

IMMORTALITY! Life Everlasting! Life Eternal! This is the inner hope and desire of every individual on the planet, and yet how many actually believe such a thing is possible, or make any effort to find out more about it!

Each lifestream comes into embodiment with God's great gift of Free Will; with the privilege of choosing what shall be done with that Gift. Shall it be used to expand God's Kingdom of Perfection and good of every description, or shall it be used to expand the shadows that have engulfed our dear planet for aeons of time?

How do you expand God's Kingdom? By qualifying your life, after it comes to you already pure and perfect, with some good constructive thought and feeling, something beautiful, something kindly, something that will bless some portion or all of Life. And how do you expand the shadows? By placing on your pure life, discordant thoughts and feelings—selfishness, unkindness, hate, anger, arrogance and their numerous kindred. All these Qualities set up CAUSES, and according to their kind will these Causes have their EFFECT, which means the individual who sets up the Causes and sends them forth, will one day meet up with them; the Good bringing more blessings, the discordant energy bringing more problems to be handled. The individual has to either master these returning streams of energy or go down under the pressure of their discord. So often before the effect is mastered, the other causes are set up which will bring *their* future effects, so that it becomes an almost endless task to clear the world of these distressing things. Thus are the SEEDS sown of discord, disintegration, decay and distress of every kind, which become the CAUSE for the death of the physical body. These streams of discordant energy which the individual has sent forth, constantly coming back to be handled, together with the streams of similar energy released by all mankind into the atmosphere of the Earth, finally

cause the physical body to so weaken that it passes out through so-called death.

Supposing you learned of a TOOL—a Divine Tool—by which you could prevent these discordant causes coming back into your world and causing you distress and ultimate death; would you be willing to experiment with this Tool and find out for yourself how to set up only causes of Perfection which would bring greater happiness and perfection to you, or is it easier to just sit and ENJOY the distress that exists in your world?

The Era of Freedom for our Earth started on May 1st, 1954, and that means that more than ordinary assistance is now available to help all mankind to set themselves free from the distresses of their own making, even to the last enemy—so-called death. The Tool is not expensive or one difficult to obtain; it is freely given; it is yours for the asking!

The Great Individualized God Presence "I AM", which stands above and around you, has placed a miniature of Itself in your heart, and that Christ Self IN you causes your heart to beat and gives you Life. This miniature "I AM" Presence IN you contains *all the power of God*, and has waited for aeons of time for your Call—to INVOKE it into action and do for you whatever you require. When you use the Name of God "I AM", it is as if you threw out a lasso that draws to you whatever you invoke, and when you decide to INVOKE the Freeing Tool, you begin the action of transmuting your mistakes of the past (your "sins") into Perfection which brings to you your Freedom.

This great Freeing Tool is known as the VIOLET FIRE, and is a concentrated activity of God's Love and Mercy which, when INVOKED or called into action, has the power to change the imperfections in your world into perfection, and without pain of any kind. Therefore, INVOKE this Violet Fire to act in your world and transmute for you the discordant streams of energy returning, or those which are yet to return, and in redeeming that energy change unhappiness into happiness, disease into perfect health, lack and limitation into opulence, and the various warring conditions in your own feelings and environment into *Peace*. Affirm often:

In the Name of the Presence of God which "I AM"; by the Magnetic Power of the Sacred Fire vested in me, I INVOKE the Violet Fire of Freedom's Love into every cell of my physical body, my etheric body, my brain and mental world, my feelings, my aura, my home, my business and finances and all my affairs, TRANSMUTING all human creation in, through or around me, or returning to me for redemption, into Divine Love, Purity, Harmony and Perfection of every kind, to be sustained until I am wholly ascended and free. What I ask for myself, I ask for every part of Life on the Earth — and I accept it manifest right now!

If you can follow a definite rhythm in invoking this Violet Fire of God's Love two or three times each day at the same time, you will be amazed at what will take place in your world, and you will find that you have less inclination to send forth unkind thoughts and feelings, but rather more loving and helpful ones which, upon their return to you, will bring added blessings into your world.

It takes persistent, dynamic USE of this Violet Fire to transmute the appearances of age in your physical body to youth, health and comfort; to change your way of thinking; to change the hard, unkind, bristling feelings of irritation, hate, depression into sustained Peace and Harmony—but IT CAN BE DONE *if you want it enough!* And when you go to bed at night, call to the God Presence "I AM" in your heart, to take you to one of the Violet Fire Lakes that has been established over many of the larger cities throughout the world, and ask the Angels of the Violet Fire to take and BATHE you in that purifying Flame of God's Love.

If you do use this Violet Fire earnestly and endeavor to transmute into Divine Love every imperfection that touches your world in any way, and yet your Beloved God Self CALLS YOU HOME before it is completed, God's great Love and Mercy have provided more assistance in this New Age of Freedom. If you should pass out through so-called death, you would be met by the lovely Angels of the Violet Fire and escorted to the River of Violet Fire in the inner realms, referred to in mythology as the River Styx, and They would gently bathe you in it again and take you to one of the beautiful Temples on the inner where you would stay UNTIL, THROUGH THE USE OF THE VIOLET FIRE, ALL YOUR REMAINING HUMAN CREATION was completely dissolved and transmuted into Love and Perfection. Thus are the causes and effects of millions of years of the misuse of life transmuted; for only when that is done are you freed from the necessity of returning to Earth in another baby body and trying again to redeem your mis-use of life and make the balance required. Therefore the INVOCATION OF THE VIOLET FIRE *enough* does bring LIFE EVERLASTING!

The Great Elohim ARCTURUS and his Complement Diana are the Great Cosmic Beings Who, together with the other six Elohim, helped to build the Earth. They have drawn forth from the very Heart of God this VIOLET FIRE OF FREEDOM, which the Ascended Master Saint Germain is to bring to the consciousness of all mankind and into outer manifestation for the Earth and Her People when She becomes Freedom's Holy Star. The Mighty Arcturus will help you to experience more Freedom, especially if, in invoking the Violet Fire, you stay with a rhythm of application, which is absolutely necessary to have a manifestation of beauty and perfection. There will come a day in the not too distant future, when all mankind will know of this Violet Fire which brings FREEDOM; and there will come a time when there will be NO disease, decay, poverty or distress—AND NO DEATH—on our Earth and She will be truly Freedom's Holy Star!

The Great Elohim Arcturus and Diana work on the Seventh Ray bringing this Violet Fire of Invocation, Rhythm and Freedom; the Great Archangel Zadkiel and Holy Amethyst bring the Violet Fire with the power of Invocation and Transmutation; and the Beloved Ascended Master Saint Germain is the focal point to our Earth of all these mighty powers that help Him to more quickly bring in the Golden Age. Whatever effort you make in drawing forth this Violet Fire here on Earth not only helps you, but helps to bring in more of the Age of Freedom, and when enough Freedom is manifest—HEAVEN WILL MANIFEST HERE ON EARTH—even as Jesus said, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done ON EARTH as It is in Heaven." Thus IMMORTALITY through the power of the Violet Fire will be a possibility for each lifestream, and then a reality.

As one of the Pioneers of this new Golden Age, prove here and now the Power of your God Presence "I AM" in your Heart, by invoking in Its Name the Violet Fire in every phase of your daily experience. Call to the Great Arcturus and Diana and ask Their loving assistance in helping you to manifest some portion of that Freedom which They bring, that by YOUR WORKS you shall be known as "Sons and Daughters of Freedom"!

ADORATION TO THE ANGELS

Angels, bright Angels, hov'ring above,
Watching, protecting, guiding with Love;
Angels of Heaven, our songs rise to Thee
On wings of true harmony.

Angels, blest Angels, comfort the Earth;
Minist'ring, healing, giving rebirth.
In shimm'ring wings now enfold every soul
And help us to reach our Goal.

Angels, God's Angels, Cohorts of Light,
Presently veiled from our Earthly sight;
God's Peace and Love are the keys to Your heart,
Oh, never from us depart.

Someday, dear Angels, we'll rise to Thee
To dwell in realms of sweet ecstasy;
We shall ascend borne on Light's shining wings —
All free for Eternity.

REFLECTION AND ASPIRATION

Janus, the mythological Roman god of doors and gates, was accredited with the happy faculty of being able to see in two directions at the same time. For this reason, he is always depicted as having two faces—each looking in opposite directions.

Is it not appropriate that this versatile character of mythology should be the one for whom our month of January is named? This, of course, results from the fact that it is the month that looks backward upon the events of the preceding year and ahead into the unknown destiny of the future. Thus it is truly a time for reflection, and a time to review our aspirations.

Is it not also of singular importance that the advent of the Christ Child is celebrated immediately prior to the opening of the new yearly Cycle? If mankind could but pause long enough in reflection to catch a fleeting glimpse of the import of this association, we could, like Janus guide our future destinies by incorporating the experiences of the past into a format for progressive education in things both spiritual and material. Thus would the Christ Child within each heart be developed to the extent that eventually the qualities of Christ would be outpictured through each lifestream and the Son of God stand forth in ever-increasing stature to perpetuate the Kingdom of Heaven upon the Earth.

In moments of reflection, we may see and remember many things. The orthodox church in its ritual of confession, says, "we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done!" Here they are admitting to the sins of omission and commission, and we know conclusively that a prayer made to the Heart of God for forgiveness is always answered if it is sincerely made from the heart of the supplicant. So, in reviewing the year that has passed, one can make a fair summation of those things which fall in the above categories, and, as far as the average person is concerned, there is nothing so serious in these situations but what the Great Presence of All Life would overlook, or, in other words, forgive or wipe from the slate. Here conscience is a true guide. If, in accepting the responsibility for certain shortcomings during the past year, the individual uses this as a yardstick by which to improve the year ahead, then the gentle Love of God, the Father, will flow into every endeavor to mitigate what that individual thinks is a debt to life. This should not stem from a sense of shame or self-condemnation, but rather from an incentive to improve one's spiritual stature.

The aspiring nature of man varies according to the development or environment of the individual. To the business man, it means success in the world of competition; to the worker, it means advancement to better positions; to the religious man, it means a closer communion with

his God. Yet, all of these could be *one* man; a man who has recognized the necessity of introducing God into the material requirements of the work-a-day world. The following verse is offered for your contemplation:

If just one prayer, dear Lord, you'd take,
These few requests of Thee I'd make;
That I could so much kinder be,
And little faults no longer see;
That God's great Light would through me shine
To e'er my consciousness refine;
That every day I'd stronger grow
In Love and Mercy's gentle flow;
That everywhere I passed life by
God would His gentle, Peace supply;
That in my heart the Christ would stand
And through my outer form expand
To make of me a shining Light —
So pure and perfect in Thy sight.
This boon I'd ask — That I could see
ALL men aspiring unto Thee.

To aspire toward manifesting the God Nature in everything we do is part of the Divine Plan for every lifestream. When Jesus said, "Ye are gods!" He knew that every man is a potential God-being. In other words, he is a creator made in the image of the Father. In the free-will use of energy and vibration, man has created the maze of circumstances in which he finds himself today. If he would, in true and unbiased reflection, really examine himself for motive, he would find that a great deal of energy has been used in the promotion of selfish enterprises. How many of us ever stop to consider the effects of our actions upon our associates, our communities, or even upon the planet itself? Even as a community is made up of a few lifestreams, so is the planet comprised of many communities, so that what affects one affects the other. Our very thoughts are God's mighty energy qualified either constructively or destructively, and it is thus that our lives are interwoven with all life everywhere. It is in this respect that we really and truly do become "our brother's keeper", for when we turn our thoughts to spiritual things, every atom of Light springs into action to carry that energy throughout the cosmos to the glory of God. If our thoughts are contrary to spirituality, then that energy adds to the shadows of the Earth and is not conducive to the expansion of God's Kingdom. In the 12th chapter of Romans, Saint Paul admonished his hearers as follows:

> "I beseech you therefore, brethren, ... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye *transformed* by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

And what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God? The Will of God is GOOD; the Will of God is LIGHT; the Will of

God is HAPPINESS; the Will of God is PEACE; the Will of God is PURITY; the Will of God is BALANCE; the Will of God is KINDNESS.

Therefore, in order to aspire toward the God Nature, one must first take an inventory of his own inner thoughts and feelings, and then decide as to what changes might be necessary in order to *conform* to the requirements of that living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. This might possibly entail a change in the thinking processes of that individual, thus bringing about the *transformation* or renewing of the mind referred to by Saint Paul.

Jean Jaures, the great French statesman, philosopher and orator, once said: "take from the altars of the past the fire—not the ashes." How true this is! If errors have been made—and recognized as such, then lessons have been learned. It has been said that any man can make a mistake, but the man who makes the same mistake twice is unwise indeed. So the lessons we have learned are the fires that we carry forward into the new year to build a New Order for ourselves and those with whom we associate. Why do we always make New Year's Resolutions? Because it is inherent in every man to improve himself. In some the urge is stronger than in others, but the average man realizes his errors and, within himself, decides to do something about them. He RESOLVES to become master of circumstance! He RESOLVES to set himself free of the shackles of imperfection. He RESOLVES to replace his bad habits with the good that he knows, within his heart, he should be outpicturing. Alas—the best laid plans of mice and men.....! Momentum steps in and takes over, and he finds himself back on the same path with resolutions thrown to the winds. Many say that tomorrow will be soon enough to change. In her book "Winged Pharoah", Joan Grant wrote as follows: "Think not of the future except to mould it by the present in which you live; and sow the seed that you will wish to reap!" There is no past—no future—only the present. We live in the eternal NOW! The old proverb that one cannot grind the mill with water that has passed still holds true. We must look to TODAY, because what is thought, said or done today are the CAUSES which produce the EFFECTS of tomorrow. Then *tomorrow* becomes *today* and we live in the results of the seeds we have sown. Without entering into any mathematical or scientific formulae, it is sufficient to say that we SHALL reap what we sow.

Therefore, it does behoove each one of us to aspire to the nobler things of life, and in our reflections carry *forward* the *flames* of constructive momentums attained in the greater moments of the past. In the words of the immortal Shakespeare: "To thine own self be true ..... it must follow as the night the day—thou canst not be false to any man!"

LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES

In the 6th chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, from the 19th to the 21st verse, the Ascended Master Jesus speaks these words:

> "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon Earth, where moth and rust do corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

How dependable is human security? In the experiences of our modern world, individuals sometimes work for an entire lifetime to obtain for themselves an annuity, a home, or general security. Often, just as their goal is within reach, or has just been attained, the individual will pass from that embodiment and the results of their life energy spent in the pursuit of happiness and contentment to which they dedicated their thoughts, feelings, words and actions, will pass on to another who does not, many times, appreciate the sacrifices made toward this goal of security. What way is there, really, of determining whether or not an individual is going to enjoy the fruits of their labors or the harvest of a few material possessions as one nears the close of an embodiment? No real pleasure is derived from 'resting on one's oars'. The satisfaction lies actually in the 'anticipation'; in the constructive use of energy toward a given objective—not in the actual arrival at the goal. A man's 'reach' must *continue* to 'exceed his grasp' in order to stimulate enthusiasm, happiness, and continued self-growth.

Knowing this, the Ascended Master Jesus suggested the better way of laying up treasures in Heaven rather than being so engrossed in the seemingly important business of establishing a security for those later years of life. Jesus' admonition of: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things shall be added unto you," is still a very potent truth even in our modern world of materialism.

When we realize that life in the physical form is not limited to one embodiment, but that our immortal lifestreams have taken on and laid aside the physical garment many times in the course of their sojourn on the planet Earth, we then begin to get a broader perspective of life, and have a greater desire to try and understand just why Jesus should emphasize the laying up of treasures elsewhere than upon this Earth where, after all, there is no real guarantee of the safety and security of possessions.

The individual who begins, even intellectually, to understand that his reason for being is centered upon a more lasting goal than the 'gaining of the whole world' at the expense of his higher endeavor, is one who will naturally magnetize the instruction regarding the broader view of life.

Let us think about our Sun for a moment. This Sun, whose rays illumine our Earth as well as the other planets of its system, and which, by centrifugal and centripetal force, holds each planet, with precision, within its respective orbit, is the Aura or Causal Body of two great Divine Intelligences known as the Beloved Helios and Vesta. Aeons ago, far beyond the ken of human mind to reckon time, these two Beings, not too unlike ourselves, drew primal energy from the Universe and used it constructively for the blessing of all life. Such energy is a stock-pile of Divine Love and Illumination which can never be misused or wrongly qualified.

Not only did these God-Beings design the planets of Their System, but They also peopled them with Their own 'children'—who were spirit sparks, or miniature 'Suns of God'—each endowed by its Creator with that certain inalienable right of free will to magnetize energy and fashion it according to the original God-pattern.

When these Spirit Sparks, or God Flames, were first projected forth as individualized Intelligences from the Heart of God, they contained, within themselves, the masculine and feminine aspects of Divinity. Self-conscious and individual choice determined whether or not these White Fire Beings would seek to further the individualization of themselves through manifesting as the Twin Rays from the same Heart Source. Those who chose to come forth as the Twin Flames were thus enabled to double their powers and capacities through the endeavors of each individual Ray. Thus each individualized God-Presence acknowledged its own Divinity in the fact that it could say "I AM!" Rays of pure electronic Light, passing from the Spiritual Heart of each individualized Intelligence, created a pure white forcefield or Spiritual Aura. This was the beginning of what is known as the Causal Body, and is the 'heaven' of which Jesus spoke when he admonished the multitude to 'lay up treasures'. These 'treasures' are constructively qualified energy.

The Causal Body of each one is builded through aeons of time—even before the individual chooses to take physical embodiment. Then, in every Earth life, all the energy used constructively is also raised into the Causal Body and this contributes to the ever-expanding glory of that Body. The "I AM" Presence of each lifestream uses this battery of spiritually-charged, qualified and gathered momentum of energy to create at Cosmic Levels.

Life used to no good purpose does not so rise, but becomes part of the mass accumulation of heavily charged discord which is referred to as the 'astral' or 'psychic' realm. Man is either increasing the size, strength and power of his Causal Body through harmoniously qualified directed energies, or he is fashioning the shrouds of unhappiness in which the entire race moves. The size of the Causal Body of every being—ascended or unascended—differs according to the amount of

energy drawn forth from the Universal, the length of time of each individualization, and the amount of energy utilized for good out of the entire store drawn forth by each one.

In considering our Sun again—surrounding it is its own Causal Body or the Seven Mighty Spheres of Consciousness—each one separated from the other by its own periphery which forms the natural boundary of that particular Sphere. These Seven Spheres are called the Aura of God—each Sphere inhabited by great God-Intelligences—all intent on doing the Father's Will in expanding His Kingdom and His Consciousness.

Each of the Seven Spheres has a quality and a color, and its attributes may be drawn upon by people in the various walks of life to further the interests to which they have decided to devote their life energies. Nearest to the Heart of God (the Sun) is the great First Sphere (blue) whose natural qualities of Power and Initiative support the interests of the executive and the ruler. The Second Sphere (yellow), with its Wisdom and Illumination, is the natural home of the teacher and the student. The arbitrators and peace-makers utilize the qualities of Love and Tolerance found in the Third Sphere (pink). The artistic development fostered in the Fourth Sphere (white) attracts the artists and musicians, while in the Fifth Sphere (green), the scientific development supports the work of the inventor, the doctor and those of like interests. Priests, ministers, and those concerned with work of a devotional nature are attracted to the great Sixth Sphere (ruby), and in the Seventh Sphere (violet) are the diplomats, gentlemen, and mystics, and those interested in cultural and diplomatic channels of expression.

Each of the 'spirit sparks', having become an individualized "I AM" Presence in itself, passes through each of these Seven Spheres to the periphery of the Aura of God. While so doing, it builds within its own Causal Body the qualities of each one of the Spheres. In some it will find more of an affinity to its nature than in others, and so builds more of that quality into its own aura.

We must not think of these 'bands of color' in the Aura of our individualized "I AM" Presence as being merely 'flat bands' as might be depicted upon a two-dimensional chart. We must think of the Causal Body as globular in shape, made up of living, intelligent, God-qualified energies and virtues which await expression through us. Nor are we to conclude that it is only while passing through the Seven Spheres after individualization that we are privileged to 'store' God-qualified energy into our Spiritual Aura or Causal Body.

From the time that the individual first takes physical embodiment, the harmoniously qualified energy used by that individual in every life

span rises into and becomes part of the 'bands' of color that make up the spiritual Causal Body of the individualized "I AM" Presence. It is the 'treasure stored in heaven!'

Even as no two snow-flakes are alike in their beauty and design so are no two Causal Bodies of Cosmic Masters, Angels, or men alike. This is because free will has allowed the individualized "I AM" Presence to use life to develop any facet of the God Plan it so desires. The activity which has taken the greatest amount of time, interest, and service through the ages will create the largest "band" of color in the Causal Body, and the various activities which have also engaged some of the energies of the individual will vary the size of the other 'bands' of color as well. The channel through which the energy flowed determines the color of the primal life, qualified by the individual, which becomes a part of the Causal Body. Those who have given most of their time to healing, will have a predominance of ruby, violet, or pink. Men and women who have served, primarily, in positions of governmental authority, or as executive directors, have a predominance of blue in the Causal Body. When the aura glows with the increase in the violet 'bands' of mercy; with yellow 'bands' of wisdom; with pink 'bands' of practical brotherhood in works, not words, then the heart can sing and the Sponsor rejoice in His invested energies as well.

The Causal Body never lies. Wise is the man or woman who chooses (while laying up the 'stores' of security on Earth) to build into that Causal Body some permanent momentum to show as the reason for an entire embodiment on Earth. At the end of each Earth life, it is the Causal Body of each one that is examined—first as it was before birth into that specific embodiment, and then at the end of that Earth life. Nothing else is a harvest of lasting value. Every other gained possession is dropped with the outworn physical body.

And so it was that Jesus taught that the lasting treasures are builded in Heaven. The priceless gift of life given to each embodied lifestream must be appreciated and woven into some good reason for being, aside from the personal interests and accomplishments which benefit only self. Those who build thus 'in Heaven' are fortunate indeed, for as the Causal Body grows in size and power and strength, each such an one becomes a Cosmic Being even before the Ascension of the outer self.

Moreover, not only did Jesus point out the value of 'laying up treasures in Heaven'. He also said, "Thy Kingdom *come;* Thy Will be done on Earth *as it is in Heaven!*" It is not only the privilege, but the obligation of each one upon the Earth to draw from the storehouse of his Causal Body the gifts, capacities, and talents through the four lower bodies (physical, mental, etheric, and emotional) which are his

momentums of the ages to be outpictured here upon the Earth for the blessing of all. Such drawing forth of the accumulation of illumination, opulence, peace, purity, faith, Divine Love, or courage from the wealth of the Causal Body requires not only a momentum of the powers of invocation, but also the purification of those four lower bodies, and the uninterrupted harmony of the outer self as well.

It was Jesus' Mission, in His final embodiment on the Earth, to externalize the gifts and powers of perfection which He had developed through the ages. When He had proven Himself capable of so expressing His Divine Nature, He was given the added opportunity of drawing upon and externalizing the Nature of the Beloved Lord Maitreya, (Who was then the World Teacher) as well.

There are unascended beings today who can and shall have like opportunity to not only express their own perfected Causal Bodies through the outer selves, but also offer their lifestreams as conductors for Cosmic Beings and Ascended Masters to spread Their radiation through the evolutions dependent upon God to help them rise out of present limitation.

For each one desiring to serve thus, Jesus, even today, stands ready and willing to offer His assistance, for He knows the Way, having trodden it successfully before us. He once said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you!" Now if you wish His assistance in the expansion of the Light within your Causal Body and your world—ask—and ye shall receive! Repeat and feel the import of the following affirmation at least three times every day:

"Beloved God-Self of me "I AM"; and Beloved Ascended Master Jesus; look down my whole stream of lives. See what yet remains to be balanced by me to any person, place, condition, or thing I have ever wronged at any time, in any way, for any reason whatsoever. Then reach Your great loving hands of Light into my Storehouse of Good which I have accumulated through the ages—my Causal Body. Draw forth from there TEN TIMES as much Perfection as I have ever done wrong. Fashion from that substance of Perfection a Gift of Love or whatever is necessary to balance every debt I have ever created which still remains unpaid (whether it be to Those ascended or unascended). Also, Beloved God-Self and Beloved Jesus, FORGIVE every person, place, condition or thing which has ever done me wrong and balance ALL debts owed to me by life everywhere. I thank and love and bless you for Your service to me and all mankind everywhere, and I know that what I ask in this, my prayer to You, is consciously made manifest right now even as I speak, and shall be eternally sustained and ever-expanding."

PEACE THROUGH CONTEMPLATION

Today all humanity is trying to find Peace. The Temple of Peace stands in the heart of a lovely woodland. Travelling here does not even tax the energy of the unskilled by requiring the motivation of the physical body. You enter a grove of beautiful trees which form a green aviary through which the sun shines so freely and makes a mystical water-green light. The long slender tree-trunks are bare of branches for a considerable height, and there is no undergrowth, so that one may walk freely in any direction and need not follow a *specific or prepared path*. It is one of the joys here that *every man may make his own path*, and that each individual is not required to follow along another person's prearranged pattern, but may choose his own beauty, his own green pastures and still waters for enjoyment and contemplation. To the methodical western mind, it is often both aggravating and distressing to enter such an impersonal forest and to be allowed to find one's own way to its heart. The eastern mind, however, is never in a hurry. This is symbolic of the Mystic Path to Peace. If it is not a *remembered* journey, then the absence of direction allows the seeker to design his own way back Home.

You stand on the fringe of this sea-green forest and know that somewhere in the center is the Palace of Peace. Your eyes can take in the fact that there seem to be miles of untracked woodland, and you are seemingly alone. The heart, contrary to human opinion, need not be in the center of that natural canopy of living green in which the birds sing so freely. Here is the joy of experience! Would you like to circle its periphery? Would you like to approach, by compass, to its heart? Or would you like to walk, enjoying the moment where the spirit listeth, with the heart-desire to find the center in good time? This can be your meditation, and you can endeavor, in so many ways, to enjoy the beauty of this lovely place. Always remember, however, that according to your sincerity of motive and desire to find Peace, there are always unseen Guides (your Angel Friends) to help you to the center of the forest and into the Temple of Peace.

In searching for this Temple of Peace, your presence in this lovely woodland must be a happy experience in which you can find relaxation with freedom to explore its beauty and tremendous inner Peace.

You will *feel* it before you can see it. When you touch the very fringe of its aura, you will be tempted to sink down to the Earth and sleep. This is good. It is perhaps arranged so, for when man awakens from sleep he is acceptable, if the awakening comes without pressure of duty or time.

You will come upon it suddenly, for there is a gentle rise of the entire surrounding woodland which forms a collar around the hill

where the Temple merges so gently with the forest as to seem a part of it. A palace, you say, made of the wood of the tree and the green of the foliage? Yes! A veritable Palace of Peace! It is so unobtrusive that only the discerning can perceive its perfection. Being so much of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the Comforting Presence of the Father-Mother God can be felt permeating the very atmosphere around it. There is no sound there. It is a silent Temple. Won't you visit there often; for be assured that the clamor and tumult of outer living will henceforth find no rent in the armor of your inner Peace.

Deep! Oh, deep — I now abide
Deep within the Flame inside —
One with Thee — my Holy Guide;
One with Thee — whate'er betide!
Still! Oh, still I now become —
Blending gently with the 'One';
One with Thee Victorious One;
One with Thee — forever One!

Rest we now in silence sweet
In Thy peaceful Love Retreat;
Heart and head and hand now meet —
One with Thee, in Peace we greet.
Resting now in Peace serene,
Love comes now upon the scene —
Peace and Love — a gentle stream —
One with Thee in Peace serene.

Peaceful Palace on the hill;
Peaceful Silence — oh, how still!
Peace and Love — this is God's Will;
One with Thee — all now — all still.
Thanks and praise, O Peace Divine;
Peaceful Presence — Love sublime;
Hold me! Hold me! Ever Thine;
One with Thee in Peace Divine!

LIVING GRACIOUSLY

Be noble; and the nobleness that lies
In other men — sleeping, but never dead,
Will rise, in majesty, to meet thine own.

Courtesy is not an outer garment to be donned in moments of expediency. Mere politeness can never be a substitute for moral excellence, any more than the bark can take the place of the heart of the oak. It may well indicate the kind of wood underneath, but not always whether it be sound or decayed. Conventional rules of conduct are but a substitute for true graciousness, and are often nothing more than its counterfeit.

True graciousness is not a state of mind—but a state of harmonious and appreciative *feeling*. In performing services for others, if the motivating feeling within you is not one of love and gratitude

to life for the existence of the other lifestreams and their endeavors to promote and expand the activities of God upon this Earth, then all your words and actions of simulated Grace are as nothing.

However, when a *radiation* of Grace is released from within the heart, it really makes the hand-shake, the blessing, the benediction, or even the small favor a Gift from God Himself, and it is felt by the other person. You cannot deceive the *feeling world* of another individual unless he or she is subject to the influence of that destructive humanly-created entity called flattery.

On the other hand, if the individual is honest, earnest, and sincere, and has been shorn of the capacity of allowing flattery to swerve him from his purpose, the lifestream releasing the feelings of Grace does reach the heart of the other—there finding an anchorage in the world of the one who seeks love, comfort, and encouragement along life's way.

True Grace, which is known in Oriental circles as 'darshan', was an especial gift of the Christian Dispensation. It is the Spiritual Gift which the Blessed Ascended Master Jesus presented to the world of mankind. It superseded the Law of Moses, which was the Law of Cause and Effect without the power of Transmutation and Mercy.

Every lifestream, no matter what his particular faith may be, whether Buddhist, Mohammedan, Hebrew or Christian, has a Virtue which issues from him, and if that Virtue stimulates spiritual desire in others, then that Virtue emanating from him is the Virtue of Grace.

In many cases, those travelling in far countries without a knowledge of the language, have found that in radiating a feeling of Divine Love and the spirit of Grace, no words were needed, for Divine Love and Grace are a Universal Language in themselves. This has been the message of every great Teacher that has come to the Earth, but the message has fallen on deaf ears when there was not enough Grace within the hearts of men to perceive it.

Grace is not an activity of the will or of the mind. Neither is it an activity of the disciplines of the body. Those who have thought it essential to mortify the flesh in order to obtain spiritual growth, accomplish less than those who work in the rice fields and provide the food by which the multitudes are sustained. The body is the envelope or habitat of the Spirit, and as such, it should be handled in a dignified and cleanly manner. It is also the Grail which houses the Holy Spirit Himself.

Man can and must govern the vibratory action of his thoughts, his feelings, his etheric memories, and his physical body as well. While he is not the master in control of the vibrations of his own vehicles, he is the victim of the intrusion of all manner of imperfect vibrations which rush, through magnetic attraction, to the vibratory action set

up through conscious or unconscious volition of self. The invocation of Spiritual Grace into the soul sets up a vibratory action which is receptive to the Divine Currents which flow through the atmosphere of Earth but which are too subtle to be recorded in the outer consciousness unless the magnet of Grace draws them in to nourish the soul.

The Gift of Spiritual Grace is an activity of the Holy Spirit. When Grace is present, it is comparatively easy for the soul to comprehend its subtle radiation through the souls of others. When Grace has not yet entered the soul and consciousness of the individual, he is in a world apart from the glories of the spiritually elect. Although the majesty, the dignity, the love, and the purity of the Kingdom are manifest all about the soul not yet reborn in Grace, the individual has 'eyes that see not and ears that do not hear."

Grace enters the soul when the outer self is still. Grace is a spiritual essence which permeates the outer consciousness when the personal ego surrenders the desire to be the actor, the designer, and the ruling power in the world of form. It was by cultivating Grace that every individual who has risen to Perfection was enabled to comprehend the Spiritual Laws and apply them to gain the Victory.

Have you ever thought of how much the quality of Grace enters into the perfection of expression even in the world of form? What a man does 'gracefully', is an accomplishment of merit. In men's dealings one with the other, much is done for duty's sake—grudgingly and reluctantly. Yet every individual responds when a fellowman renders a service gracefully; grants a pardon gracefully; offers a benefit unearned in a graceful manner.

At this time of year, while our attention is upon the advent of the Master Jesus, it is well to remember the things he said in the later years of His ministry. One of these sayings was this: "Grace is humility, loving kindness, tolerance, spiritual tenderness and understanding. He that is under Grace hath no need of the law."

Like the Dove which is the spiritual emblem of the Holy Spirit, Who is embodied Grace, the Spiritual Grace which gives the soul the capacity to respond to the Inner Spirit must be invited in loving sincerity, in tenderness, in gentle invocation.

In the beautiful Golden Age now casting its beams across the far horizon, the invocation of the Spiritual Graces will form a considerable part of the religious ceremonies for humanity.

True Grace, true Courtesy, true Nobility will naturally radiate from the one who is 'in tune' with his own God-Self. Each individual thus 'in tune' will react with a sense of gentility and refinement toward all other lifestreams. Thus will social harmony, the social graces, and social inter-relations find their highest and, in reality, their most natural expression.

BEHOLD ALL THINGS SHALL BECOME NEW

"And I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth . . . . . Behold
I make all things new."

Rev. 21:1-5

Utopia is waiting to enter; but the world must open its doors; and actually there is nothing in the world which is an insuperable barrier to this opening. Observing the world from cosmic heights, one sees that its need is great. It cries aloud for help—the cry that even the Lord Himself has heard and answers with the words: "I come!" There is good promise for the future, however, if only world leaders will lead it from the pursuit of separateness, whether individual, class, nation, sect or race, to the pursuit of Unity and Understanding.

We must live in terms of Brotherhood; in terms of intensifying capacity, rather than of levelling differences. We must stand for Brotherhood in daily life, in religion, in politics, in industry, in education, in international relations. No compulsion from without—whether legislation or arbitration of any kind, will bring it about. All these are compromise or bargaining between truth and falsehood and cannot last. There must be the urge from within; the natural following of the laws of gravitation; a response to the impelling influence of an inner Light by which even universes are held together.

In the Bible, we find these words: "God is Light. If we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another . . . . . He that loveth his brother abideth in the Light, and there is no occasion for stumbling in him."

There is a greater basis for comradeship in the world than we have hitherto taken into consideration—a deeper identity—a more glorious origin—a more illumined way—a more perfect Goal—for the seal of God's purpose is set upon all things.

We are atoms of Light—suns in miniature. The Divine Sun has created myriads of lesser suns—all charged with His attributes. Thus were we originally created in His Image and Likeness. Each atom of Light began as an atom of unconscious Divinity, slowly fulfulling the Will of the Creator to become unfolded into a self-conscious Divine Identity.

We have come on a long journey of involution. We are imprisoned Light. So accustomed have we become to our flesh walls, that a veritable prison house has all but closed in upon us. But a new day is dawning. The Sun of Light has already cast Its beams across the horizon. So, too, is the Spark of God expanding within us, for we are making the Passover from the bondage of human concepts to Spiritual Freedom.

The process of evolution is a process of the individualization of Light on the way to universalization.

God, the Sun, and Light are synonomous. We are children of the Sun—sparks of this glorious God-Being. We look up into the sky and we see our God. Around us everywhere we see His Mighty Presence. We must each become a 'sun' in His System. Even as He is the Source of all life, so in us, as well, is the Source of all life, because we are in Him and are of His Being. Jesus referred many times to the fact that even as He was 'in the Father', so were we all 'in the Father', because the Father and all His creation are ONE. Each one of us is an Infinity in essence because nothing is lacking in our potential to become omnipresent. We are Light even as God is Light. We can conceive that in the infinitely distant future our bodies will be as the Sun, and our kingdoms will be universes. We are brought face to face with our own potentiality, and with it, inevitable growth into power. As each enters the essence of his own being—his own true heart center—each sees himself as a brilliant sun in miniature, and then he realizes that God is not found in any particular form, but in the infinite.

One does not journey by land or sea; or by plane or train to arrive at this broadened understanding. It is merely an act of lifting the individual consciousness until one 'tunes in' to the Universal Consciousness. Then you know that there is but one great song of Life echoed in the hearts of men and things, even though its variations are infinite. One can thus 'tune in' to the heart-note of any particular individual, and thereby come to understand his fellowman. "If we walk in the Light as He (God) is in the Light, we have (true) fellowship one with another!"

As the Light within the heart expands, we become "transfigured' until eventually we shall shine as gloriously as the Sun in the heavens. We need to be inspired so that we may gradually become one with the Eternal. We cannot know God as He is, until we become all Light, even as He is all Light, because to know God is to BE God, and Light is the Form of God.

In each one of us, the Spark of Divinity is waiting to become a Flame. Nothing can extinguish this 'spark' — however dimly it may glow. Through aspiration and service, do we kindle the Fires of Divinity within our hearts. Thus we cultivate the warmth of understanding which stimulates; the Light of Wisdom which clarifies; and the Love of God which purifies. LIGHT is, in fact, the 'philosopher's stone', the potent force of the alchemist, and someday the Science of Light will be recognized as the science of sciences, with its laws, its rituals, its worship, its philosophy, its ethics, and its aesthetics. Then shall we become true Sons of God in the physical appearance world.

How little one really knows! But how much there is to know, and how glorious is the search! One feels like an enthusiastic collector of gems — glorying in the search, and triumphing in the find. There is nothing in the world, or out of it, that is not worth collecting. There is nothing which is not valuable experience; there is nothing which does not contain a useful lesson. So the circumstances of life are of little importance. What matters is our power to extract from them the nectar whereby we grow.

Even our Sun has travelled the pathway of evolution. Step by step, it ascended as bond after bond was burst asunder; until the spark became the Fire, the heart of which is that physical orb which we call the Sun of our System. Beyond our sun are suns more glorious still. What limit is there to mankind's unfoldment? Each must constantly strive to live according to his own highest standards, and not according to conventional standards which often represents less than the perfection we seek.

Things, as they appear to be, so often disclose little of themselves as they are. Often those who are first in the eyes of the world are failures when measured by the standards of righteousness.

Just as long as we are satisfied to remain within the prison walls of limitation, with doors and windows closed — eliminating Light, so long shall we live in separateness, aloofness and misunderstanding of the great God-potential, the spirit-spark within the heart, waiting to expand into a brilliant Sun, and so long shall we fail to hold within the orbit of our love our fellowman.

> "Let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify the Father which is in Heaven!"

Once the Spark of God within the heart expands; once we sense the stir to arouse from the deep sleep of the ages; once we learn to unite our smaller wills with the Will of God, we shall be as wanderers returned to the true home after experiencing the lessons of innumerable illusory homes. This is a freedom achieved which, by its essential omnipotence, enables all limitation to be transcended, for when one truly finds God within himself, ALL THINGS WILL HAVE BECOME NEW, and suddenly he will see God in everything. When one is able to say, not merely as a pious belief or hope or yearning, but as an experience, that God *is* Love, he has effected a transubstantiation; that is to say — he has sensed *Reality*. The world thus becomes far more real in every sense of its being. One sees clearly that there is nothing inanimate. All is animate with Sun Light; all is alive with Sun Sound; all is a reality with Sun Form. Even the minutest microcosm is a perfect macrocosm in miniature — the pebble on the beach, the speck of dust, the least animate insect. In essence all things are vibrant with infinite potentiality. One feels a reverence for all things in a far deeper measure; one lifts

things more carefully deliberately; one touches even inanimate objects with more refinement in the touch; one uses things with a deeper sense of the purpose to which they are dedicated; one perceives Divinity even in the tools with which he is associated as he does his daily work.

Now the world seems new and the Power of Light is in all things. Through our physical senses we touch the Light which is Divinity. It lies all about us and in us. As we have variations around a musical theme or motif, so is the world an almost infinite number of variations upon the theme of the Universal Light. It is a Symphony of Sound and of Silence; a Symphony of Color and of Form; and there are those who, hearing this symphonic archetype, seek to mellow the harsh notes and the cruder colors and forms of ignorance so that the world orchestra, whose musicians are composed of all manifest life, may, under the baton of the Supreme Conductor, make the music glorious, and a sequence of harmonious presentation. The process of evolution is the process of the individualization of Light on the way to universalization on the plane of self-consciousness. In that consciousness, we must recognize that all life is One in God and that all faiths, nationalities, races and classes of people differ very little one from the other in essence. This essence of life is Universal Being, but there is a subjectivity embracing us all.

In world terms, Truth grows — however much there may be Truth absolute and eternal; and we must grow with Truth. Truth unfolds, and we must unfold with Truth. We cannot — we must not wait.

The changing world has become a world changed; nowhere is waiting inevitable. The season of Christmas, which is the celebration of the coming of the World Teacher, is proof that the world has ears to hear Him. Does not His moving among mankind effect a transubstantiation for the whole world? A tangible feeling of good will toward men will be substituted for the selfish aspirations which the world has so long fostered. *He* takes their place. He re-enters into an intimate relationship with all men. He comes among us; enters our little worlds; takes His place *in* us; and raises us far beyond our normal selves so that He enhances our Higher Selves, and draws the lower self into accord with the higher ideals of God, the Father Almighty.

As we enter this blessed Season of Christmas, a thread of Unity runs through all things. Gradually, slowly, the fiercer hues of the colors of discord and hatred are mellowing into the splendid shades of Love. Good Will is beginning to pervade every department of life. Little by little the whole world is committing itself to Brotherhood. The old order is fast passing away; for it is a Cosmic Fiat that *all things shall become new*.

> God is Love; and he that dwelleth in Love,
> dwelleth in God; and God in him.
> I John 4:16

A CHRISTMAS STORY

In the little town of Bethlehem in Judea, a child was born under very strange circumstances. The story has been told to millions of people for hundreds of years, and is told at Christmas time in most of the Christian churches throughout the world.

Back of this story, however, there is another story that is not so generally known. It is the story that deals with "the mystery of Christ", (Col. 4:3). It deals with "the mystery which hath been hid from ages and generations" (Col. 1:26), and "the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 16:25). It is the story of the three wise men, the flight into Egypt by the Holy Family, the little town of Nazareth, and the message of the Angels.

* * * * *

Flavius Josephus, a Jewish writer that lived in Rome shortly after the ministry of Jesus, tells us that there were three religious groups in Palestine. These were the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Essenes. It is from this latter group that the Holy Family and most of the apostles came. More is known about the Essenes than is generally supposed, but they are still the mystery group of history. The name seems to refer to a type of people rather than a racial group. They evidently had what Paul called "spiritual discernment", (1 Cor. 2:14). It was to people of this type that Jesus said "it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not given", (Matt. 13:11).

The Essenes were not just a local group but were part of a widely scattered organization. In other lands they were sometimes known by other names but were very often just called the "brotherhood" or "brethren", (1 Thes. 5:1-6), because of their connection with the White Brotherhood. They were always in possession of special knowledge of the Divine plans and purposes, but this knowledge was not freely given to others, (Matt. 7:6), due to the fact that this type of information was beyond the comprehension of most people (1 Cor. 2:14).

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In Old Testament history, the name of Jacob was changed to Israel because Jacob proved that he had those qualities that Paul later called spiritual. Therefore all the "children of Israel" were not necessarily the direct descendants of Jacob, but were people that had the same spiritual vision of Jacob, as Timothy had the qualities of Paul and was called the son of Paul (1 Tim. 1:2). When the Israelites left Egypt, it was more than just the revolt of Jewish slaves; it was much like the various religious groups that fled from Europe to this continent and later developed into a united people. In the exodus of the Israelites, there were various tribal groups that had been drawn into Egypt

at different times and for different reasons, and they often had different gods and religious customs. Some had been educated, as Moses was, in the temples, and in some of these, monotheism had been taught for a long time. But they had one thing in common; they were seekers of Light and believed that they could get it from Moses. So it was a mixed group that left Egypt under the leadership of Moses and other advanced leaders of the Brotherhood. In the wilderness, a religion of "do nots" was established for the masses, but behind that movement were the silent, mystical and mysterious "children of light" who were to become the Essenes at the time of Jesus.

All of the Essenes did not leave Egypt. It was only a group of colonists that went to Palestine, and they settled in that part of the country that was later called Galilee. Their more advanced members were called Nazarites and in the book of Numbers special laws are given for them. You remember that Samson was a Nazarite and the town of Nazareth received its name from the fact that a number of Nazarites lived in that vicinity.

This outline of some rather obscure facts of history will give our readers a basis for understanding some of the things that happened in the early life of the Christ child. It is now easy to see why the child was taken to Egypt when his life was in danger, for here the Family was among friends, as the temple at Luxor in Egypt was still the headquarters of the colony of Palestine. They remained here until just before Jesus was twelve years of age.

The "three wise men" were Masters in the Brotherhood, and knew far more about the coming Messiah than the Hebrews did. These Masters came from Persia and among the gifts they brought was a gift of gold. This was not just a token gift but was a rather large amount; enough to take care of their flight to Egypt, the education of the child Jesus and any other necessary expenses. All Essene boys learned a trade and they all lived frugal lives, but the Holy Family was never the poverty stricken group that they have been pictured, and the early church had some of the wealthiest men in Palestine back of them. Joseph of Arimathea for one, owned large tin mines in England and one of the largest fleets in the Roman empire.

Shortly after the return of the Holy Family to Palestine, the higher education of Jesus began. The Brotherhood maintained schools in various parts of the world where advanced children of Nazarite type parents were educated in Cosmic law. Jesus attended such schools in both Egypt and India and perhaps other countries. He did finish his schooling in India and returned to Palestine about the time he was thirty years of age, and started his public work there.

To understand the message of the Angels, it will be necessary to refer again to the teachings of Jesus Himself and to the teachings of

Paul, the Apostle. We call your attention to the fourth chapter of the book of Mark in the New Testament. Jesus and His disciples had been talking, and in the eleventh verse we find these words: "and He said unto them, unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but to them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing, they may see and *NOT* perceive; and hearing, they may hear and *NOT* understand: lest at any time they should be converted". Jesus did *NOT* want converts. The one who would become a convert does not have the emotional or mental development to comprehend spiritual things. They are swayed too much by material things. Paul states this very clearly in 1 Cor. 2:14: "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: neither *CAN* he know them, because they are spiritually discerned". All writers of the New Testament were very careful to follow the pattern set by Jesus. Knowledge brings responsibility and it is an unkind act to shoulder responsibility on one who is not developed enough to assume the load. It is an unkindness that neither Jesus nor the Apostles were willing to do. Therefore in the New Testament all the teachings concerning the Kingdom are given in such language that "converts", those that use fear as any part of their religion (1 John 4:16-18), and those that are followers of religious leaders (1 Cor. 3:1-4) would not be burdened with the responsibility that comes with understanding the Truth. Not a single doctrine of the Kingdom or the mystery of the Christ is clearly stated in the Bible.

But times have changed and are still changing rapidly. There is now a rather large group of people in a lot of churches that are honestly and sincerely seeking truth, and a truth-seeker is a disciple and not a convert, and all the powers of Heaven are pledged to see that they find the truth and to see that they understand it when they do find it. "Seek and ye shall find" are the words of Jesus.

In order that we might understand the last part of our Christmas story two of these buried doctrines will be briefly explained to you. They might be called Reincarnation and Universal Salvation. An understanding of the New Testament is not possible without an understanding of these two teachings for they are the central themes of Christianity. For the first of these teachings, a word of explanation is perhaps in order before we go to the Scriptures. Reincarnation is the teaching that the soul inhabits a material body for a limited period of time. That body is inhabited until it wears out through age or it may be discarded due to disease or accident. Since soul and character development are closely related, this development is quite a slow process and cannot be completed in one life span. When the soul leaves the body it goes to Paradise. This is referred to in the story of the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43). Paradise is not Heaven. It is an in-between state or condition. Here the conscious soul rests in its etheric body, meets old friends and receives

instruction from those that have completed their development and have become Divine Beings. They also study over the mistakes that they have made in past incarnations, and in due time those pages of memory are temporarily closed and the Father says: "My son it is time to try again". That will go on until we are ready to obtain the complete Resurrection in the spiritual body. Remember "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 15:50). So the soul with its developed tendencies is enfolded in a new infant body in the place and under the circumstances that it has earned. "As a man soweth that shall he also reap". If your present life is hell on earth you have earned it. If it is heaven on earth you have earned that by following the Law of Love. Oh yes, our sins must be paid for — here on the same plane where they were committed.

Is all this taught in the Bible? Yes; and in the words of Jesus. It is true that it is in veiled language, but plain enough for the true seeker. We go now to the book of Matthew, chapter 16, verse 13 and we read in the words of Jesus: "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." What does this mean? It simply means that the Jewish people really believed that souls did come back into the bodies of new born infants, and since Jesus was a great man, He must have been a great man in His previous incarnation — perhaps one of their great prophets. Did Jesus say they should not believe such things? No, He did not!

We now go to the next chapter — Matt. 17:10. We quote in part. "Why then say the scribes that Elias (Elijah) must first come?" (Mal. 4:5). But I say unto you that Elias is come already. ***Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist". Now, dear reader, if the doctrine of reincarnation was a part of the Jewish religion and Jesus taught that John the Baptist was the reincarnation of the great prophet Elijah, it is a part of the Christian religion and a very important part.

Now to the last part of our Christmas story, the message of the Angel, (Luke 2:10). "And the Angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which *SHALL BE* to *ALL PEOPLE*". Paul says (1 Tim. 4:10) "we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of *ALL* men". Jesus says (John 12:32). "I, if I be lifted up from earth, will draw *ALL* men unto me". The Lord said unto Abram (Gen. 12:1-30), "in thee shall *ALL* families of the earth be blessed". All means *all* in any language.

Truly the message of the Christ is one of *GREAT JOY* for *ALL* people.

May the blessings of the Eternal Father of Light be upon all who read these words.

OUR LOVE TO ARCTURUS

Blest Arcturus, we now greet Thee
With Eternal Love so free,
Thou Great Elohim of Creation —
Guardian of our Liberty.

We give now in salutation,
Sign of heart and head and hand;
And in silent dedication,
For the Light we take our stand.

Great Arcturus, accept from us
Our heart's gratitude and praise
For Thy Power of Invocation,
And Thy help — all life to raise.

Blaze Thy Violet Flame triumphant —
Flame of Mercy's Power Divine,
Through all less than God's Perfection;
May It all our worlds refine.

Great Arcturus, we now bless Thee,
And Thine own dear Heart-Flame too,
Blest Diana, consecrate us
As we service pledge anew.

Call we forth God's great Forgiveness
For all not of God Design;
May we now invoke Its Power
To complete our Plan Divine.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Staff of "HOPE" takes this opportunity of extending to all its sincerest wishes for a Holy Christmas Season; and that the best of all God's Gifts be yours throughout this New Year and all the years to come. May we all daily increase in Grace of the Spirit that our very Presence may outpicture the Holy Comforter to all life everywhere.